

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/CHE/35
5 February 2004

(04-0409)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English/
French

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>SWITZERLAND</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Federal Office for Agriculture, CH-3003 Berne
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Wood and wood packaging material circulating under Chapter 44 (Headings HS 4401, 4402, 4403, 4404, 4406, 4407, 4415, 4416) and Heading 9406
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Countries exporting the products concerned to Switzerland
5.	Title, language and number of pages of the notified document: Ordinance on the Protection of Plants – Draft Modification of the Federal Department for Economic Affairs (Available in French, 26 pages)
6.	Description of content: The current provisions governing the import into Switzerland of woods and wood products are proposed to be amended. In particular, the relevant provisions of the Ordinance on Plant Protection for wood packaging material would be aligned with the provisions of the FAO International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No 15 on <i>Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade</i> . Other amendments are proposed as regards: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- wood originating in countries where <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i> (Steiner et Bühner) Nickle <i>et al.</i> is known to occur;- wood originating in Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkey and other countries, excepted member States of the European Communities;- isolated bark of conifers;- the provisions against <i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i> (Murrill.) Barr; and- changes in the tariff and statistical nomenclature and the Customs Tariff. These amended provisions are of interest for countries exporting the relevant wood or wood products to Switzerland.
7.	Objective and rationale: [] food safety, [] animal health, [X] plant protection, [] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [] protect territory from other damage from pests

<p>8. International standard, guideline or recommendation: <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention, <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations: This regulatory amendment is consistent with the standards, guidelines and recommendations of the International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, and in particular, the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No 15 on <i>Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade</i>.</p>
<p>9. Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Ordinance of 28 February 2001 on the Protection of Plants (available in French/German/Italian, current version): http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/rs/c916_20.html</p>
<p>10. Proposed date of adoption: 10 March 2004</p>
<p>11. Proposed date of entry into force: 1 July 2004</p>
<p>12. Final date for comments: 1 March 2004</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</p>
<p>13. Texts available from: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: switec@snv.ch</p>